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FACT SHEET

Technical Support to the Central and Provincial Ministry of Public Health (Tech-Serve)

OVERVIEW

USAID's Tech-Serve project develops the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to manage and coordinate health services at both the central and provincial levels and to reduce maternal and child mortality. Tech-Serve's assistance enables the MoPH to be the steward of the health system and to improve the health of the Afghan people. Tech-Serve works closely with the MoPH to strengthen its ability to manage the healthcare delivery system; improve the capacity of provincial health offices in the 13 USAID-supported provinces; and support the planning, management, supervision, evaluation, and leadership capacity at the MoPH.

ACTIVITIES

- **Procuring essential medicines** – Provides pharmaceuticals to health centers and health posts implementing the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) in the 13 USAID-supported provinces.
- **Developing the capacity of the MoPH to manage grants to NGOs** – Afghan technical consultants embedded in the MoPH closely monitor and provide technical support to 16 NGOs delivering the BPHS to more than 13 million people in 13 provinces.
- **Strengthening the capacity of 13 Provincial Health Offices** – A full-time Provincial Health Advisor facilitates the development of management skills for the MoPH provincial health staff.
- **Scaling-up family planning services through community health workers** – In cooperation with the MoPH Community-based Health Care Unit, the project trains and supports provincial public health offices, NGOs, and community health workers to expand and improve family planning services.
- **Strengthening the capacity of hospital managers to improve quality of hospital services** – Provides technical support to five provincial hospitals to improve management capacity and at the central MoPH to improve hospital services nationwide.
- **Improving the MoPH's Health Information System and Monitoring & Evaluation Units** – Improves the performance of the MoPH to collect and use information for better decision-making.
- **Enhancing the capacity of the MoPH at the central level** – Embedded advisors in the MoPH help build the capacity of the Policy and Planning, Child Health, Control of Communicable Diseases, and Training units.

RESULTS

- Procured more than \$12 million of essential drugs to meet basic health needs.
- The MoPH was certified in 2009 to receive \$236 million in direct funding from the U.S. Government to implement the BPHS in 13 provinces.
- The 13 USAID-funded provinces are now able to coordinate the implementation of the BPHS and have competent provincial health staff. A learning center has been established at the Hirat Provincial Public Health Office.
- Contraceptive prevalence rates in three pilot districts doubled in two years. The approach has been expanded to all districts in 13 provinces through more than 9,000 community health workers.
- The MoPH completed national hospital standards and developed a national hospital policy, a strategic plan, and an accreditation system for better hospital management.
- National databases for human resources and training have been established and are now managed and updated by MoPH staff.